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# DESCRIPTION

OF

# MAY.

FROM

GAWIN DOUGLAS, Bishop of Dunkeld.

By FRANCIS FAWKES, A. M.

Hic Ver purpureum; varios hic flumina circum  
Fundit humus flores.

VIRG.

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LONDON:

Printed for J. WHISTON and B. WHITE, in Fleet-Street; A. MILLAR,  
in the Strand; and R. DODSLEY, in Pall-Mall.

MDCCLII.



D.

Gavin Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld.

FRANCIS FAWKES, A.M.

The Verger of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Edinburgh.

London.

1840.

LONDON:

Printed by W. G. Smith, at the British Museum Press, in Pall Mall.







T O

WILLIAM DIXON, Esq;

**W**HILE at your Loversal, secure retreat,  
Far from the vain, the busy, and the great,  
You pass your peaceful hours in rural ease,  
Pleas'd with amusements that the wise may please ;  
Conduct clear currents thro' the vale below,  
Bid buildings rise, and future navies grow ;  
Or, by the sacred thirst of learning led,  
Converse familiar with th' illustrious dead,  
Worthies of old, who life by arts refin'd,  
Taught wholesome laws, and humaniz'd mankind :

Can



Can Dixon listen to this flowery lay,  
Where splendid Douglas paints the blooming May ?  
If aught these lines thy candid ear engage,  
The muse shall learn to moralize the page,  
To give to merit the reward that's due,  
And place the interests of mankind in view,  
Form tender minds by virtue's better lore,  
And teach old infidels to doubt no more.  
To thee this verse belongs ; and may it prove  
An earnest of my gratitude and love.







THE  
P R E F A C E.

**T**HE following poem of GAWIN DOUGLAS is prefixed to the XIIth book of his translation of VIRGIL'S *ÆNEIS*, and entitled, *Ane singular lernit Proloug of the Description of May*; and is now publish'd, as a proof, that the muses had visited Great Britain, and the flowers of poetry began to be in bloom 250 years ago. It may also serve as an instance, that the Lowland Scotch language, and the English, at that time were nearly the same. CHAUCER and DOUGLAS may be looked upon as the two bright stars that illumin'd England and Scotland, after a dark interval of dulness, a long  
night



night of ignorance and superstition, and foretold the return of day and the revival of learning.

This Description of May is extremely picturesque and elegant, and esteemed by gentlemen, whose good taste and learning are indisputable, to be one of the most splendid descriptions of that month that has appeared in print; which is all the apology I shall make for having given it an English dress.

The old Scotch is printed exactly after the Edinburgh edition, which was published in the year 1710.

SOME



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SOME  
A C C O U N T  
O F  
G A W I N D O U G L A S.

**G**AWIN DOUGLAS, *Bishop of Dunkeld, was nobly descended, being a son of the illustrious family of Angus. His father was Archibald, the sixth Earl of Angus. He married Elizabeth, daughter to Robert Boyd, Chancellor and one of the Governors of the Kingdom of Scotland, A. D. 1648, by whom he had issue four sons, George, William, Gawin, and Archibald. The two eldest, with 200 gentlemen of the name of Douglas, were killed in the battle of Flodden.*

*Our Author was born the latter end of the year 1474, or the beginning of 1475. Great care was taken of his education, and he was early instructed in the liberal Arts*  
*and*



and Sciences. When he had compleated his studies in his own country, he went abroad, that he might farther improve himself by conversation with great and learned men, and observations on the laws and customs of other countries. Upon his return to Scotland he was advanced to be provost of the collegiate church of St. Giles in Edinburgh, and rector of Heriot church, some few miles distant from it. In this station he continued several years, behaving himself as became his holy character, noble birth, and liberal education. After the battle of Flodden many ecclesiastical dignities became vacant, among which was the abbacy of Aberbrothock, one of the most considerable in the kingdom. The Queen Mother, who was then Regent, and shortly after married to the Earl of Angus, our Author's nephew, presented him to it; and soon after to the Archbishoprick of St. Andrews. But he met with so great opposition in this affair, that neither the royal authority, nor the influence of his noble relations, nor his own unexceptionable merits, were able to procure him peaceable possession: For Andrew Forman (Bishop of Murray, and Archbishop of Bourges in France) by the interest he had in the court of Rome, and the Duke of Albany, obtained a bull from the Pope for that dignity, and was accordingly acknowledged as Archbishop by most of the clergy of the see. Mr. Douglas, reflecting on the scandals which arose from such unworthy contests,



tests, and preferring the honour of a Christian and peaceable disposition to his temporal interest and greatness, wholly laid aside his pretensions to that see. But the Bishoprick of Dunkeld becoming vacant, in January 1515, the Queen advanced him to it; and afterwards, by the intercession of Henry VIII. King of England, obtained a bull in his favour from Pope Leo X. Notwithstanding his right was founded on the Royal and Papal authority, yet he could not obtain consecration for a considerable time, because of a powerful competitor; for Andrew Stewart Prebendary of Craig, and brother to the Earl of Athole, had got himself nominated Bishop by such of the chapter as were present; and his title was supported by all the enemies of the Queen and her Husband the Earl of Angus, particularly the Duke of Albany, who returning to Scotland in May 1515, was declared Regent. In the first session of Parliament after the Governor's arrival, Mr. Douglas was accused, on some groundless pretext or other, of acting contrary to the laws of the nation, was pronounced guilty, and committed to the castle of St. Andrews, and imprison'd upwards of a year, till the Governor was reconciled to the Queen and the Earl of Angus: Then he was set at liberty, received into the favour of the Regent, and consecrated Bishop at Glasgow. Notwithstanding, his troubles were not yet at an end, for his old antagonist, Andrew Stewart, had possess'd himself of



*the palace of Dunkeld, and seemed resolved to defend it against the Bishop by force of arms : However, at last it was yielded up, without any bloodshed ; which was very acceptable to the good Bishop, who was of a gentle and merciful disposition, and always regulated himself by the excellent laws of the Christian religion.*

*Being at last put in peaceable possession of his office, he resolved to give himself wholly to the faithful discharge of his duty : but the interest of his country would not permit him long to satisfy his own inclinations, for he was pitched upon to attend the Duke of Albany into France, to renew the antient league between the two nations : however he soon returned to Edinburgh, with a joyful account of the confirmation of the league ; and thence repaired to his diocese, and applied himself to the duties of his sacred function.*

*But several unhappy divisions being soon after fomented in Scotland, and the Bishop of Dunkeld perceiving the violent aversion which the court had conceived against the family of Angus, and the danger he was exposed to on that account, resolved to retire into England till the storm was blown over. This happened at a time when the King of England had just declared war against the Scots ; which gave his enemies at home, who were the prevailing party*

6

at



at court, an opportunity to endeavour his ruin. A proclamation was soon issued out against him, he was declared an enemy to his country, the revenues of his bishoprick were sequester'd, and all correspondence with him was forbid.

Soon after his coming to London, it pleased God to put an end to the persecutions of his enemies, by taking him to himself. Most authors agree that he died of the plague, which then raged in the City, in April 1522, about the forty-eighth year of his age. He was buried in the Hospital-church of the Savoy, on the left side of the tomb-stone of Thomas Halfey Bishop of Leighlin in Ireland. In Weever's ancient monuments we find this inscription for them both. Hic jacet Tho. Halfay Leighlinen. Episcopus, in Basilica St. Petri Romæ nationis Anglicorum Penitentiarius, summæ probitatis vir, qui hoc solum post se reliquit. Vixit, dum vixit, bene. Cui. lævus. conditur. Gawinus. Douglas. Scotus. Dunkelden. Præsul. Patria. sua. exul. 1522.

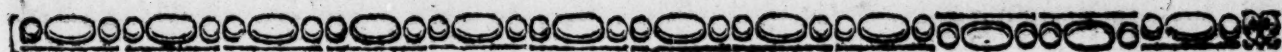
Such was the fate of this great genius and good man; for whose Elogy, as a poet, I shall refer the reader to his works, which are very eloquent in his praise; and out of several testimonies of eminent men that might be produced in his favour, shall only transcribe this passage from *Hume's History of the Douglasses*, p. 220.



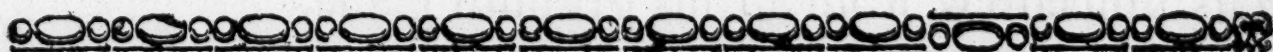
" G. Douglass left behind him great approbation of his virtues and love of his person, in the hearts of all good men; for besides the nobility of his birth, the dignity and comeliness of his personage, he was learned, temperate, and of singular moderation of mind; and in those turbulent times had always carried himself among the factions of the nobility equally, and with a mind to make peace, and not to stir up parties."

His chief works are, his translation of *Virgil's Æneis*, *the Palice of Honour a Poem*, *Aureæ narrationes*, *Comædiæ aliquot sacræ*, & *de rebus Scoticis Liber*.





A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF  
MAY.





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# GAWIN DOUGLAS

His singlar lernit

## PROLOG

### OF THE DESCRIPTION of MAY.

**D**IONE A, nycht hird, and wache of day,  
The sternes chasit of the heuin away,  
Dame Cynthia doun rolling in the feye,  
And Venus loist the bewte of hir eye,  
Fleand eschamet within Cyllenius caue,  
Mars umbedrew from all his grundin glaue,  
Nor frawart Saturne from his mortall spere  
Durst langare in the firmament appere,

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Bot



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A  
**DESCRIPTION of MAY.**

BY  
**GAWIN DOUGLAS, Bishop of Dunkeld.**

**MODERNIZED.**

*Hic Ver purpureum : varios hic flumina circum  
Fundit humus flores.*

**VIRG.**

**V**ENUS, bright beam of night, and watch of day,  
Had chas'd the ling'ring stars of Heav'n away,  
Driv'n to the deep pale Cynthia from the sky,  
And lost herself the beauty of her eye.  
With Mercury she fought the secret shade,  
And Mars withdrew, for all his burning blade ;  
Nor gloomy Saturn, rolling in his sphere,  
Durst longer in the firmament appear,



Bot stal abak zound in his region far,  
 Behynd the circulate world of Jupiter; 10  
 Nyctimene affrayit of the licht  
 Went under couert, for gone was the nycht;  
 As fresche Aurora, to mychty Tithone spous,  
 Ischit of her safferon bed and euyr hous,  
 In crammesye clede and granit violate, 15  
 + With fanguyne cape, and feluage purpurate,  
 Unschet the wyndoys of her large hall,  
 + Spred all with rosis, and full of balme riall,  
 And eik the heuinly portis cristallyne  
 Upwarpis brade, the warlde till illumyne; 20  
 The twynkling stremouris of the orient  
 + Sched purpoure sprayngis with gold and asure ment,  
 Persand the fabil barmkin nocturnall,  
 Bet down the skeyes cloudy mantil wall;  
 Eous the stede, with ruby hammys rede, 25  
 Abuse the seyis listis furth his hede,  
 Of culloure fore, and sum dele broune as bery,  
 For to alichtin and glade our emyspery,



## A Description of MAY.

5

But vanish'd far from ken of mortals, far  
Beyond great Jupiter's imperial star. 10

The screech-owl, startled at the dawning light,  
Wing'd to her bow'r her solitary flight:

For fresh Aurora, Tithon's splendid spouse,  
Rose from her saffron bed, and left her ivory house ;

Her vi'let robe was stain'd with crimson hue, 15  
The cape vermilion, and the border blue ;

Her hands the windows of her hall unbarr'd,  
Spread all with roses, and perfum'd with nard :

The crystal gates of Heav'n expanded wide  
Pour'd streams of splendor in an ample tide : 20

The beaming ~~Q~~ Orient, beauteous to behold,  
Shed purple rays, and azure mix'd with gold,

Dispersing with all-penetrating light  
The solid gloom of cloud-envelop'd night.

The Sun's gay couriers, in their harness red, 25  
Above the billowy ocean's boundless bed

Rais'd high their heads, impetuous in career,  
To give the light, and glad our hemisphere.

So



The flambe out brastin at the neifs thirlis,  
 So fast \* Phaeton with the quhip him quhirlis, 30  
 To roll Apollo his faderis goldin chare,  
 That schroudith all the heuynmys and the are;  
 Quhil schortlie with the blefand torche of day,  
 Abulzeit in his lemand fresche array,  
 Furth of his palice riall ischit Phebus, *isued* 35  
 With goldin croun and visage glorijs,  
 Crisp haris, bricht as chrissolite or thopas,  
 For quhais hew mycht nane behald his face,  
 The fyrie sparkis braisting from his ene,  
 To purge the are, and gilt the tendir grene, *gild* 40  
 Defoundand from his sege etheriall *seat*  
 Glade influent aspectis celicall,  
 Before his regal hie magnificence  
 Myfity vapoure vpspringand fwete as sence,  
 In smoky foppis of donk dewis wak, 45  
 With hailsum stouis ouerheiland the flak,

\* This confusion of Phoebus and Phaethon is an error which several old English writers have fallen into; and our author is guilty of a like mistake in the first line of this poem, where he confounds the character of Dione with that of Diana.



## A Description of MAY.

7

So fast they scour'd, that from their nostrils came  
A cloud of smoke, and streams of living flame, 30  
Fir'd by the whirling whip their round to run,  
And roll the golden chariot of the Sun.  
While shortly with the blazing torch of day  
Forth from his royal hall in fresh array  
Sprung Phœbus, by his flaming mantle known, 35  
His glorious visage, and his golden crown ;  
His glossy locks were as the topaz bright,  
His radiance beam'd intolerable light ;  
His eye-balls sparkled with celestial sheen,  
To purge the air, and gild the tender green, 40  
Diffusing from the brightness of his brow,  
Ethereal mildness on the world below.  
Before the king of day thin vapours rose,  
Like clouds of incense, and as sweet as those,  
(The dewy tribute which the meads exhale) 45  
Curling they rose, and hover'd o'er the vale.

The



The auriate phanis of his trone souerane *from dawns*  
 With glitterand glance ouerspred the octiane, *ocean*  
 The large fludis lemand all of licht,  
 Bot with ane blenk of his supernale sicht; 50  
 For to behald it was ane glore to se,  
 The stabyllyt wyndys, and the calmyt se,  
 The soft fessoun, the firmament ferene,  
*from, calen.* \* The loune illuminate are, and firth amene,  
 The siluer scalit fyschis on the grete, 55  
 Ouer thowrt clere stremes sprinkilland for the hete,  
 With fynnyis schinand broun as synopare,  
 And chesal talis, stourand here and thare;  
 The new cullour alichting all the landis  
 Forgane the stanryis schene, and berial strandis: 60  
 \* Quhil the reflex of the diurnal bemes  
 The bene bonkis kest full of variant glemes:  
 And lusty Flora did hir blomes sprede  
 Under the fete of Phebus fulzeart stede:  
 \* The fwardit soyll enbrode with felkouth hewis, 65  
 Wod and forest obumbrate with the bewis,

Quhais

2. *felkouth, if not the Antelheris is to  
 vouch?*



The golden splendor of his glorious beams  
Glane'd on the floods, and glitter'd in the streams,  
And all the ocean shone serenely bright  
With the first glimpse of his supernal sight. 50  
How calm! how still! how pleasing to behold  
The sea's broad bosom where no billows roll'd!  
The season soft, the firmament serene,  
Th' illumin'd landscape, and the watry scene!  
Where sportive fish display'd their silver pride, 55  
Quick-glancing on the surface of the tide,  
By russet fins impell'd from shore to shore,  
Their tail the rudder, and the fin their oar.  
New lustre gilded all the rising lands,  
The stony hillocks, and the beryl strands; 60  
While the reflection of the glowing beams  
Play'd on the banks in variegated gleams.  
Where-e'er Apollo's radiant couriers went,  
Sprung flow'rs unnumber'd of delicious scent;  
Earth's flourish'd carpet various hues display'd, 65  
And wood and forest wore a fuller shade,



✧ Quhais blysful branchis porturate on the ground

With schaddois fchene fchew rochis rubicund, *with*

*pronounced*  
*he* Towris, turettis, kirkalis, and pynnakillis hie

Of kirkis, castellis, and ilk faire ciete, 70

Stude payntit, euery fane, phioll and stage

Apoun the plane ground, by their awin umbrage:

Of Eolus north blastis hauand na drede,

The fulze fprede hir brade bosome on brede,

Zephyrus confortabill inspiratioun 75

For tyll reffaue law in hir barne adoun:

✧ The cornis croppis, and the bere new brede

Wyth gladefum garment reuefting the erd;

✧ So thyk the plantis sprang in euery pete,

✧ The feildis ferlyis of their fructuous flete: 80

Byssy dame Ceres, and proude Priapus

Reiofing of the planis plentuous,

Plennyft so plesand, and maist properly

By nature nuriffit wounder tendirly,



Whose beauteous branches, chequer'd on the green,  
Imbrown'd the rigid rocks that rose between:  
Tow'rs, battlements, and castles huge and high,  
Turrets, and spires that mingle with the sky, 70  
And every dome, and pinnacle, and fane,  
By their own shade stood figur'd on the plain.  
The glebe, now fearless of the North's keen air,  
To the soft Zephyrs spread her bosom bare,  
With genial warmth her fertile lap to chear, 75  
And fill her with the plenty of the year.  
Fresh springing corn enliven'd all the scene,  
And cloath'd the country with a robe of green:  
And plants so numerous open'd to the view,  
The fields rejoicing wonder'd how they grew. 80  
With joy the goddess of the golden grain,  
And proud Priapus ey'd the pregnant plain;  
Where fruitful nature wak'd her genial power,  
And rear'd, and foster'd every herb and flower:



On the fertyl skyrte lappis of the ground 85

Strekand on brede under the cyrkil round:

\* The varyant vesture of the venust vale

✕ Schrowdis the scherand fur, and euery fale

Ouerfrett with fulzeis, and fyguris ful dyuers,

The pray bysprent wyth spryngand sproutis dyspers, 90

✕ For callour humours on the dewy nyght,

✕ Rendryng sum place the gyrs pylis thare licht,

Als fer as catal the lang somerys day

Had in thare pasture etc and gnyp away:

And blyssful bloffomys in the blomyt zard 95

Submittis thare hedys in the zoung sonnys safgard:

Iue leuis rank ouerspred the barmkyn wall,

The blomit hauthorne cled his pykis all,

Furth of fresche burgeouns the wyne grapis zing

Endlang the trazileys dyd on twistis hing, 100

The

[Ver. 87. *The varyant vesture, &c.*] It is evident our author intends to describe two distinct things, viz. cornfields, and meadows or pasture-lands, the former in the three first lines, *the varyant vesture, &c.*——is plainly arable, and the *fulzeis and fyguris ful dyuers*, are the various leaves and flowers of the weeds growing among the corn and making a piece of embroidery. And here the description of cornfields ends, and that of pasture-



## A Description of MAY.

13

The fair creation swell'd upon the eye ; 85  
Earth was their bed, their canopy the sky.

A varied verdure rob'd the vales around,  
And spread luxuriant o'er the furrow'd ground :  
And flowery weeds, that grew profuse between  
The barley-lands, diversified the scene. 90

The silver springs, that through the meadows flow'd  
In many a rill, fertility bestow'd ;  
And where the humid night's restoring dew  
Dropt on the ground the bladed herbage grew,  
As fast as cattle the long summer's day 95  
Had cropt the grassy sustenance away.

A bloom diffusive o'er the gardens run,  
Confiding in the safeguard of the sun :  
Wreath'd ivy mantled round the lofty tower ;  
And hawthorn-hedges whiten'd into flower. 100  
The fresh-form'd grapes in little clusters hung ;  
Close to their props the curling tendrils clung.

pasture-lands begins at, *The pray byspring*, &c. *Pray*, not as the glossary to G. Douglas says, *corruptedly for spray*, but formed from the Lat. *Pratum*, and *Spryng* and *Sproutis*, rising springs, from the Ital. *spruzzare*, *spruzzolare*, *aspergere*.

The



The loukit buttouns on the gemyt treis  
 Ouerspredand leuis of naturis tapestryis.  
 Soft gresy verdoure eftir balmy schouris, 105

On curland stalkis smyland to thare flowris:

Behaldand thame fa many diuers hew

Sum piers, sum pale, sum burnet, and sum blew,

Sum gres, sum gowlis, sum purpure, sum sanguane,

Blanchit or brown, fauch zallow mony ane, 110

Sum heuinly colourit in celestial gre,

Sum wattry hewit as the haw wally fe,

And sum departe in freklis rede and quhyte,

Sum bricht as gold with aureate leuis lyte.

The dasy did on brede hir crownel smale, 115

And euery flour unlappit in the dale,

In battil gers burgeouns, the banwart wyld,

The claur, catcluke, and the cammomylde;

The flourdelyce furth sprede his heuynly hew,

Floure damas, and columbe blak and blew, 120

Sere downis smal on dentilioun sprang,

The zoung grene blomit strabery leuis amang,



## A Description of MAY.

15

The buds, that swell'd in gems on every tree,  
Burst into foliage, nature's tapestry.

Lo ! by soft zephyrs wak'd, and gentle showers, 105  
On bending stalks smile voluntary flowers,  
Trick'd off in vast variety of hue,

Some red, pale, purple, yellow, brown or blue ;

Some brightly ting'd in heav'n's etherial stain,

And some cerulean, like the watry main, 110

Some crimson-colour'd, fairly fleckt with white,

Some gold that gayly glitter'd in the light.

The daisy did its coronet unveil,

And every flow'r unfolded in the dale ;

Rank sprung salubrious herbs, and every weed, 115

And clover bloom'd luxuriant in the mead :

The flow'r-de-luce abroad its beauty spread,

And columbine advanc'd his purple head :

From thistly stems flew vegetable down,

And beds of strawb'ries were with grass o'ergrown. 120

Can-



X Gimp jereflouris \* thareon leuis unschet,  
 Fresche prymrois, and the purpoure violet,  
 X The rois knoppis, tetand furth thare hede, 125  
 Gan chyp, and kyth thare vernale lippis rede,  
 Crysp skarlet leuis sum scheddand baith attanis,  
 † Kest fragrant smel amynd fra goldin granis,  
 Heuinlie lyllyis, with lokkerand toppis quhyte,  
 Opynnit and schew thare creiftis redemyte, 130  
 The balmy vapour from thare fylkyn croppis  
 Distilland halesum sugurat hony droppis,  
 And sylver schakeris gan fra leuys hing,  
 With crystal sprayngis on the verdure zing:  
 The plane pouderit with semelie seitis sound, 135  
 Bedyit ful of dewy peirlys round;  
 So that ilk burgeoun, fyon, herbe, or floure,  
 Wox all enbalmit of the fresche liquour,

And

\* Probably Gawin Douglas wrote, *thare awin*. Vid. Ver. 72. *thare awin umbrage*.

† VER. 126. *Kest fragrant smel, &c* ] It is observable, that Gawin Douglas never once mentions the scent of flowers till he comes to the rose, and never at all the scent of any particular flower, except the rose, not even of the lilly; for, I take it, the words Ver. 131. *from thare fylkyn croppis*, are meant to describe the flowers in general; and the  
*balmy*



Carnations glow'd in gayly-mingled hue;  
 Pale was the primrose, and the vi'let blue.  
 Its velvet lips the bashful rose begun  
 To shew, and catch the kisses of the sun;  
 Some fuller blown their crisped honours shed; 125  
 Sweet smelt the golden chives that grac'd their head.  
 Queen of the field, in milkwhite mantle drest,  
 The lovely lilly wav'd her curling crest.  
 From every flower ambrosial sweets distill'd,  
 Ambrosial sweets the ambient æther fill'd. 130  
 Dew-drops like diamonds hung on every tree,  
 And sprinkled silv'ry lustre o'er the lea,  
 And all the verd'rous herbage of the ground  
 Was deck'd with pearls which cast a splendor round.  
 The flow'rs, the buds, and every plant that grew 135  
 Sipt the fresh fragrance of the morning dew:

*balmy vapour* to be the same with the *fresche liquour*, Ver. 138. and *the dulce humour's*  
*Qubareof the beis wrocht thare hony swete*, an exhalation distinct from that which causes  
 the scent; and *redolent odour*, Ver. 144, is general; for he certainly means to close  
 his description of the vegetable world, (and he does it nobly) by one universal cloud of  
 fragrance from all nature, as well fields, as gardens.



And baithit hait did in dulce humouris flete,  
 Quhareof the beis wrocht thare hony swete, 140  
 Be mychty Phebus operatiouns,  
 In fappy subtell exhalatiouns :  
 Forgane the cummyn of this prynce potent,  
 Redolent odour up from the rutis spreit,  
 Hakefum of smel as \* \* \* 145  
 Aromatike gummes, or ony fyne potioun,  
 Must, myr, aloyes, or confectioun.  
 Ane paradise it semyt to draw nere  
 Their galzeard gardingis, and eik grene herbere :  
 Mayst amyabil waxis the emerant medis, 150  
 \* Swannis fouchis throw out the respend redis,  
 Ouer all the lochis and the fludis gray,  
 Serfand by kynd ane place quhare thay fuld lay :  
 Phebus rede foule his curale creist can ftere,  
 Oft strekand furth his hekkil crawand clere 155

\* There is something aukward in making the transition from vegetables to animals in the division of a couplet, which the Translator has endeavoured to avoid.



In every plant the liquid nectar flow'd,  
In every bud, and every flow'r that blow'd;  
Here rov'd the busy bees without controul,  
Robb'd the sweet bloom, and suck'd its balmy soul. 140  
To greet the God, from Earth's fair bosom flow'd  
All Nature's incense in a fragrant Cloud,  
More grateful far than those gross fumes impart,  
Which tort'ring fires extract by chymic art.  
Like paradise appear'd each blisful scene 145  
Of purple gardens, and enclosures green,  
Of bloomy hedges, and of waving woods,  
Of flowery meads, and rushy-fringed floods:  
Where silver swans, with snowy pride elate,  
Their tall necks mantling, sail'd along in state, 150  
By instinct taught their ozier nests to make  
On the dank margin of the lucid lake.  
Brisk Chanticleer wav'd high his coral crest,  
And crowing clapt his pinnions to his breast;



x Amyd the wortis, and the rutis gent,  
 Pickland hys mete in alayis quhare he went,  
 His wyffis Toppa and Partolet hym by,  
 As bird al tyme that hantis bygamy ;  
 The payntit powne payfand with plumys gym, 160  
 Kest up his tale ane proud plesand quhile rym,  
 Ischrowdit in his fedderane bricht and schene,  
 Schapand the prent of Argois hundreth ene ;  
 Amang the bronys of the olyue twistis,  
 Sere smale floulis, wirkand crafty nestis, 165  
 Endlang the hedgeis thik, and on rank akis  
 Ilk bird reiofand with thare mirthful makis :  
 In corneris and clere fenesteris of glas  
 Full besely Arachne weuand was,  
 To knyt hyr nettis and hyr wobbis fle, 170  
 x Tharewith to cauch the litil mige or fle :

Under



## A Description of MAY.

21

With orient heel he lightly spurn'd the ground, 155

And chuck'd for Joy at every corn he found;

And as he strutted on in gallant pride,

Two wives obsequious waited at his side;

For cocks, that couple with their nearest kin,

Hold bygamy a pardonable sin. 160

The peacock proudly pac'd upon the plain,

And like a circle bent his gaudy train,

Where vivid colours brightly-beaming strove;

He seem'd beneath a canopy to move:

His starry plumes reflected various dyes, 165

Resembling Argus with his hundred eyes.

Where leafy branches form'd a secret shade

The painted birds their cunning fabricks made,

Or on the oak, or implicated thorn,

And wanton'd in the beauty of the morn. 170

Her wary stand the watchful spider took

In the glass window, or some gloomy nook,

There wove her web, in filmy texture fly,

To captivate the little gnat, or fly.

Beneath



Under the bewis bene in lufely valis,  
 Within fermance and parkis clois of palis,  
 The buftuous bukkis rakis furth on raw,  
 Heirdis of hertis throw the thyck wod fchaw, 175

The zoung fownys followand the dun days,  
 Kiddis skipband throw ronnyis eftir rais,

In lefuris and on lewis litill lammes

Full tait and trig focht bletand to thare dammes.

On falt ftremes wolk Dorida and Thetis 180

By rynnand strandis, nymphes and naiades,

Sic as we clepe wenshis and damyffellis,

In gerfy grauis wanderand by fpring wellis,

Of blomed branchis and flouris quhyte and rede

Plettand their lufy chaplettis for thare hede : 185

Sum fang ring fangis, dancis, ledis, and roundis,

With vocis fchil, quhil all the dale refoundis ;

And thochtful luffaris rownyis to and fro,

To leis thare pane, and plene thare joly wo,

Eftir



Beneath the trees that screen the lovely vale, 175  
Within the limits of the fencing pale,  
March nimble-footed deer in rank array'd,  
Or seek the shelter of the green-wood shade:  
Young kids, light skipping, and the timorous fawns  
Brush thro the copse, and bound along the lawns: 180  
While in fresh pastures or the fallows gray  
Lambs nibble in the wantonness of play.

Emerging from their coral-paven cave  
Thetis and Doris walk upon the wave,  
But stream-presiding nymphs, and naiads trim, 185  
By the clear current, or the fountain's brim,  
Such as we name our gentle maids that rove  
By waters welling in the grassy grove,  
Culling green boughs, and bells, and flourets fair,  
And weaving garlands for their golden hair; 190  
Some sweetly sing, some lead the festive round;  
The distant dales re-ecchoe to the sound:  
And thoughtful lovers to the winds complain,  
To mitigate the madness of their pain;



- ✕ Eftir thare gife, now fingand, now in sorow, 190  
 With hertis penfue, the lang fomeris morow :  
 Sum ballettis lift endite of his lady,  
 Sum leuis in hope, and fum alluſterly  
 Disparit is, and fa quyte out of grace,  
 Hys purgatory he fyndis in euery place. 195  
 ✕ \* \* \* new curage kitillis all gentil hertis,  
 Seand throw kynd ilk thing ſpryngis and reuertis :  
 Dame naturis menſtralis, on that uthyr parte,  
 Thare blifsful bay intonyng euery arte,  
 To bete thare amouris of thare nychtis bale, 200  
 The merle, the maſys, and the nychtingale,  
 With mirry notis myrthfully furth brift,  
 Enforſing thaym quha nicht do clink it beſt :  
 ✕ The kowſchot croud is and pykkis on the ryfe,  
 The ſtirling changis diuers ſteuynnys nyfe, 205  
 The ſparrow chirmis in the wallis clyft,  
 ✕ Goldſpink and lintquhite fordynnand the lyft,  
 The gukkow galis, and ſo quhitteris the quale,  
 Quhil ryveris reirdit, ſchawis, and euery dale,



## A Description of MAY.

25

Now warbling madrigals so light and gay,

195

Now pale and pensive the long summer's day :

Some write in high heroicks to the fair,

Some live in hope, and some thro' sad despair

In every place a purgatory find ;

Such is the moody genius of their mind.

200

All gentle hearts confess the quick'ning spring,  
For May invigorates every living thing.

Hark ! how the merry minstrels of the grove

Devote the day to melody and love ;

The ouzle shrill, that haunts the thorny dale,

205

The mellow thrush, the love-lorn nightingale ;

Their little breasts with emulation swell,

And sweetly strive in singing to excell.

In the thick forests feeds the cooing dove ;

The starling whistles various notes of love :

210

The sparrow chirps, the clefted walls among ;

To the sweet wildness of the linnet's song,

To the harsh cuckoo, and the twittering quail

Resounds the wood, the river, and the vale ;

E

And



And tendir twiftis trymblyt on the treis, 210

For birdis fang, and bemyng of the beis,

In werblis dulce of heuinlie armonyis,

The larkis loude releifchand in the fkyis,

Louis thare lege with tonys curious ;

Bayth to dame Natur, and the frefche Venus, 215

Rendring hie laudis in thare obferuance,

Quhais fuggourit throttis made glade hartis dance,

And al fmal foulis fingis on the fpray ;

Welcum the lord of licht, and lampe of day,

Welcum fofterare of tendir herbis grene, 220

✕ Welcum quhikkynnar of flurift flouris fchene,

Welcum fupport of euery rute and vane,

Welcum confort of al kind frute and grane,

Welcum the birdis beild apounthe brere,

Welcum maifter and reulare of the zere, 225

Welcum welefare of husbandis at the plewis,

Welcum reparare of woddis, treis, and bewis,

Welcum



## A Description of MAY.

27

And tender twigs, all trembling on the trees, 115

Dance to the murmuring musick of the bees.

Upspring the airy larks, shrill-voic'd and loud,

And breathe their mattins from a morning cloud,

To greet glad Nature, and the God of day,

And flowery Venus, blooming queen of May ; 120

The songs of praise their tuneful breasts employ,

Charm every ear, and rap the soul in joy.

Thus sung the sweet musicians on the spray ;

    Welcome, thou Lord of light, and lamp of day ;

Welcome to tender herbs, and myrtle bowers, 125

Welcome to plants, and odour-breathing flowers ;

Welcome to every root upon the plain,

Welcome to gardens, and the golden grain :

Welcome to birds that build upon the breere,

Welcome, great Lord and Ruler of the year : 130

Welcome, thou Source of universal good,

Of buds to boughs, and beauty to the wood :

Welcome,



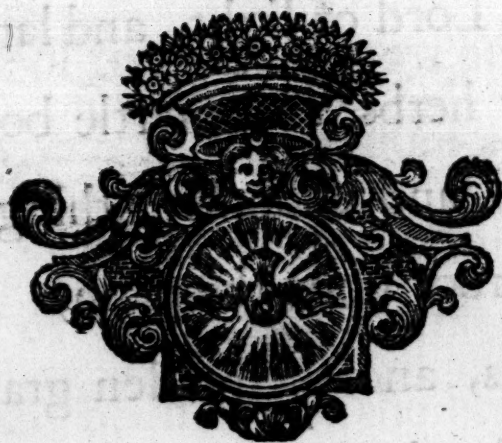
Welcum depaynter of the blomyt medis,

Welcum the lyffe of euery thing that spredis,

Welcum storare of all kynd bestial,

230

Welcum be thy bricht bemes gladand al.





## A Description of MAY.

29

Welcome, bright Phœbus, whose prolific pow'r  
In every meadow spreads out every flow'r ;  
Where-e'er thy beams in mild effulgence play,  
Kind Nature smiles, and all the world is gay.

135

11 7 49





39

To the Honorable

Worshipful Magistrate  
in every manner  
Whereas the  
Kind Nature





## A

## G L O S S A R Y.

- A** *BAK*, back, behind.  
*Abulzeit*, dressed, cloathed.  
*Affrayit*, afraid.  
 + *Akis*, Oaks.  
*Als*, as.  
*Amene*, pleasant [Lat. *amœnus*]  
*Attanis*, at once.  
*Awin*, own.  
*Barmkin*, Rampart, Fortification.  
*Batil*, thick, rank.  
*Bene*, pleasant, from the Lat. *Bonus*.  
 + *Bere*, Barley.  
*Bot*, but.  
*Brade*, broad. *Brede* ibid. *On brede*, abroad  
*Brerde*, new sprung.  
*Bronys*, Branches.  
*Burgeouns*, Buds, young sprigs.  
*Bustusus*, huge, fierce.  
*Bysprent*, besprinkled.  
 + *Callour*, fresh, cool.  
 + *Catcluke*, the name of an Herb.  
*Chesal*, Chisel, or shaped like a Chisel.  
*Cbis*, Cloyster, Lat. *Glastrum*.  
*Crammesy*, Crimson, [Fr. *Cramoisi*]  
*Croude*, to coo like a Dove.  
*Defoundand*, pouring down, diffusing.  
*Days*, Does,  
*Eik*, each, also.  
*Emerant*, green, verdant.  
*Enbrede*, embroider'd.  
*Endlang*, along.  
*Erd*, the Earth.  
*Eschamet*, ashamed.  
*Fale*, Turf.  
 + *Fauch*, grey colour'd or rather reddish,  
 fallow.  
*Fensteris*, Windows, [Lat. *fenestra*.]  
 + *Ferlie*, to wonder.  
*Fleand*, flying, fleeing.  
*Flete*, Flow, Product.  
*Fordynnand*, ecchoeing, resounding.  
*Forgane*, against, also over against.  
*Fruetuous*, fruitful.  
*Fulzeis*, Leaves, [Fr. *Feuille*, Lat. *Folium*.]  
*Galis*, makes a noise like a Cuckow.  
*Galzeard*, cheerful, pretty.  
*Gent*, genteel, spruce.  
*Gers*, Grass, Gyrs, ibid.  
*Glave*, a Sword, [Fr. *Glaive*, Lat. *Gladium*]  
*Gnypp*, to crop or browse.  
 + *Gowlis*, red, *Gules* from the Fr.  
*Granit*, having Grains, forked, scarlet or  
 crimson.  
*Gravis*, Groves.  
*Gre*, Degree, Gres, gray.  
*Grete*, Sand, or Gravel in Rivers.  
*Grundin*, grinded, sharpen'd.  
 + *Hammys*, a Collar for Horses.  
*Hant*, to frequent, use. [Fr. *Hanter*.]  
*Haw*, blueish, cerulean.  
*Hekkil*, a Heckle, Comb.  
*Hird*, Shepherd. Ang. Sax.  
*Ilk*, each.  
*Ischit*, issued, came out.  
*Kirnailis*, Battlements, Parapets.  
 + *Kitillis*, tickles, moves.

Kow, bet



# A G L O S S A R Y.

- + *Kowfchot*, a Ring-Dove, or wild Pidgeon.  
*Kyth*, to shew, make appear.  
*Law*, low.  
*Leis*, to lose *Leese*, 1 Kings C. xviii. ver. 5. in the same sense.  
*Lemand*, blazing, shining.  
 + *Lefuris*, Pastures, Glades.  
 + *Leyis*, Leas, untill'd Ground.  
*Lochis*, Lakes.  
*Lockkerand*, curling.  
*Louis*, Praise.  
*Loukit*, locked up, enclosed.  
 + *Lcune*, calm.  
 + *Lyft*, the Firmament.  
*Mavys*, a Thrush.  
 + *Ment*, mixed, mingled together.  
*Merle*, an Ouzle. Blackbird. [Lat. *Merula*]  
*Neis thirlis*, Nostrils.  
*Obumbrate*, shaded over.  
*OEtiane*, the Ocean.  
*Ouerfrett*, overspread, embellish'd.  
*Ouerheidland*, covering over.  
*Peirs*, sky-colour'd.  
 + *Pete*, a clod, or lump of Earth.  
*Phanis*, not *Fanes* or *Ensigns*, (as the *Glossary* interprets it) but Appearance or Splendor, from the Gr. *Phaino*, ostendo, splendo  
*Phioll*, a Cupola.  
 + *Plene*, to complain.  
*Powne*, a Peacock.  
*Pray*, a Meadow. [Lat. *Pratum*]  
 + *Pylis*, Hairs, or Tops of Grass.  
*Quba*, who—*Qubais*, whose.  
*Qubile*, a Wheel.  
*Qubip*, a Whip.  
*Rais*, Roes.  
*Rakis on raw*, march in order.  
*Redemyte*, decked, beautiful.  
*Reirdit*, refounded.  
*Releischand*, mounting up.  
*Rendryng*, restoring.  
*Respand*, the rustling of Reeds.  
*Ressaue*, to receive.  
*Revertis*, returns.  
*Revesting*, cloathing.  
*Ronnys*, Brambles, Briars.  
*Rym*, the Circle of a Wheel.  
 + *Kyse*, Bullrushes, — may signify Shrubs, Bushes.  
*Schaw*, a Wood, Forest, or Grove.  
*Schene*, shining.  
*Scherand*, cleaving.  
*Schruudith*, covers over.  
*Sege*, Seat. [Fr. *Siege*.]  
 + *Selkouth*, strange, uncommon.  
*Semelie*, seemly.  
*Sence*, Incense.  
*Sere*, several.  
*Seye*, Sea.  
 + *Slak*, a Bottom, or Valley.  
*Soppis*, Showers, Clouds.  
*Sore*, sorrel, chesnut.  
*Such*, to make a Noise.  
*Sprayngis*, Rays, streakes of different Colours.  
*Sprinkilland*, gliding swiftly.  
*Stabillyt*, settled, calm'd.  
*Stanryis*, the Shore.  
*Sternes*, Stars.  
*Steuyannis*, Notes, Sounds.  
*Storare*, Restorer.  
 + *Stouis*, Vapours, Exhalations.  
*Stourand*, stirring.  
*Strandis*, Strands, — sometimes signifies Rivulets.  
*Sulze*, the Soil, Ground.  
*Sulzeart*, bright, glittering.  
*Sum dele*, somewhat, a little.  
*Syon*, a Scion, or young Shoot.  
*Tait*, tight.  
*Tetand*, putting forth.  
*Thareon*, their own.  
 + *Till*, to, unto.  
*Trazileys*, props, or supporters of Vines.  
*Umbedrew*, withdrew.  
*Unschet*, opened.  
*Upwarpis*, thrown up.  
*Uthyr*, other.  
*Wak*, moist.  
*Wally*, wavy, billowy.  
*Wobbis*, Webs.  
 + *Wortis*, Herbs, Plants. —  
*Zallow*, Yellow.  
*Zard*, Yard, Garden.  
*Zere*, Year.  
*Zing*, young.  
*Zound*, yonder, farther off.